(f) NRHM has already been launched this year for providing quality healthcare to rural population especially the disadvantaged sections.

(g) Does not arise.

Parameters of Health Care

SI. No.	Indicator	India	China	Pakistan	Bangladesh	USA	Sri Lanka	Thailand
1.	Infant Mortality Rate 1000 live-births	68	<30	86	66	2	8	15
2.	Under-5 mortality/1000 live births	87	37	103	69	8	15	26
3.	Fully Immunized (%)	67	84	61	77	93	99	94
4.	Births by skilled attendants (%)	43	97	20	14	99	97	99

Source: WHR, 2005

Microsystem acupuncture for treatment for loss of vision

1911. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an alternative treatment for loss of vision has been developed through microsystem acupuncture;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether the new treatment has been used on an extensive scale in Government and Government recognized hospitals and if so, the results thereof, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) As per the information available, Micro acupuncture is reported to be used in some western countries for treatment of macular degeneration, a visual disorder

which causes loss of vision. However, there are no reports of the system being used extensively in Government hospitals.

Free Treatment for AIDS Patients

1912. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme to treat the AIDS patient free of cost is running at present;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) the number of patients being provided with medicines free of cost; and

(d) the funds for which provision has been made for this scheme for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Details are as under:

AIDS treatment programme was started in the country from 1st April, 2004 through Government hospitals. Currently 40 Government Hospitals are providing free ART Services. The sub-groups among the PLHA being targeted for ART on priority are:

- Mothers participating in PPTCT programmes
- Children below 15 years
- People who seek treatment in Govt. Hospitals.

(c) A total of 15349 patients are receiving ARV drugs free of cost from the 40 hospitals. Besides, this ART facilities are also given through the hospitals of the other departments of the Government of India such as Defence, Railways, ESI and SAIL.

(d) During the current Financial Year, an amount of Rs. 27.62 crores is available under Global Funds Round IV for free ART in the six HIV high prevalence States, that is, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Manipur and Nagaland and NCT Delhi.

An amount of Rs. 21 Crores is available from the GoI budget for free ART through Government institutions in other States not covered by Global Fund.